



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Agricultural Survey Is an Opportunity to Provide the Facts

NASHVILLE, May 2, 2008 - How many acres will be planted to cotton and corn this year? What impact will record high prices for wheat and soybeans have on acreage? To answer these and many other critical questions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Tennessee Field Office will have their interviewers contact a sample of the state's farmers during late May through mid-June.

There is always speculation about each new crop season. Debra Kenerson, Director of the Tennessee Field Office said, "This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indication of the potential production and supply of major commodities in the United States for the 2008 crop year. Understanding that the information we gather is only as good as the source it comes from, we are counting on the most reliable, frontline source of information for this survey – the producers themselves.

The up-to-date results are an unbiased snapshot of agriculture from producer reported data. "When evaluating selling and storage options, this survey will be an important source of information for producers," added Kenerson. The information gathered is widely valued by agriculture's supporters, too. Producer associations, extension agents, industry analysts, and Congress use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Ms. Kenerson reminds producers. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the important regional, state, and national data."

All reports are available on the NASS website: www.nass.usda.gov. For a copy of the results of this survey or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Tennessee Field Office website at www.nass.usda.gov/tn or call 1-800-626-0987.

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